

Weatherite House
Credenda Road
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 7JE
11/08/2020

Heritage Statement of Significance and Impact

Telephone Exchange, Minster Street, Reading, RG1 2JB

The site is a Telephone Exchange providing internet service and telecommunications. It is comprised of two types of buildings. The part of the building that will have the louvre installation is more modern, approximately 50-60 years old. The other part of the site is a mixture of an older construction which is approximately 100 years old and a newer part, which is a fairly recent construction. This part of the building is in public view on the main road and is probably the reason the building is listed.

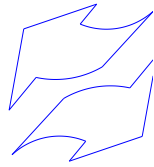
The proposal is to remove glass panels from 2 windows on the ground floor southeast elevation of the exchange. Two aluminium louvres will be fixed to the metal window frames. This is to allow fresh air into the room through the louvres in order to help keep cool equipment being installed for upgraded superfast broadband.

One louvre will be 1.6m x 1.9m and one will be 1.6m x 1.35m. They will be mill finish to match existing louvres already installed in the building.

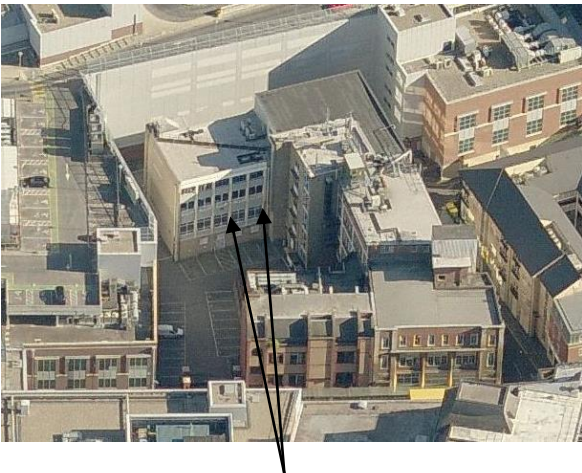
The building is located in the town centre and is built on a site approximately 3,600 square metres in area. The affected elevation has retail properties opposite, 50m to the north, on Minster Street.

It is a practical building adorned with satellite dishes and masts. It also has louvres on all elevations which currently act as ventilation for other rooms within the building.

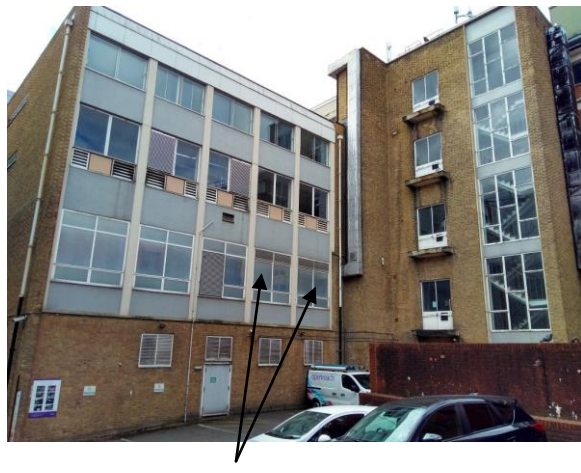
There will be no access issues after or during the installation as the exchange has its own parking area.



An installation of the louvres would not significantly take away any of the character of the structure in any way. Photographs below show the building with views from Minster Street and the court yard of the exchange.



AERIAL VIEW OF NEW LOUVRE LOCATION



A VIEW OF NEW LOUVRE LOCATIONS FROM
MINSTER STREET/COURT YARD